

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2-5, 14, 21, 36, 38, 39, and 49.

Please amend the following claims:

1. (twice amended) A system for communicating with a communication channel and a separate host processor, the separate host processor being housed within a computer system housing and being coupled to a display, the system comprising:

a peripheral housing separate from the computer system housing; and

an audio/visual communication system integral to the peripheral housing, the audio/visual communication system comprising:

a source input interface that receives a source audio signal and a source video signal;

a local transmission interface that selectively transmits [the] a coded source audio signal and [the] a coded source video signal to either one of an analog or a digital communication channel;

a local receive interface that receives a coded remote audio signal and a coded remote video signal transmitted over the either one of the analog or the digital communication channel and automatically determines the format of the coded remote audio and video signals; and

an output interface, comprising an output connector, that communicates the remote video signal between the local receive interface and the output connector;

wherein the output interface receives at the output connector a coordination instruction produced by the separate

transmitted over the either one of the analog or the digital communication channel; and

an output interface [means], comprising an output connector, [for communicating] that communicates the remote video signal between the local receive [means] interface and the output connector;

wherein the separate host processor, when coupled to the output connector, receives the remote video signal for displaying a corresponding video image on the display.

2. (once amended) A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the local transmission [means] interface comprises[:] a [local compression means for converting] coding circuit that converts the source audio and video signals to associated local [compressed] coded audio and video signals of a predetermined [compressed] digital format[; and

means for transmitting the local compressed audio and video signals over the communication channel].

3. (once amended) A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the local receive [means] interface comprises a [remote decompression means for converting] decoding circuit that converts remote [compressed] coded audio and video signals of a predetermined [compressed] format received over the communication channel to associated remote decoded audio and video signals.

4. (once amended) A system as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the local receive interface [means] comprises means for

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software that cooperates with the separate host processor to produce a coordination instruction for coordinating [coordinate] communication of the remote video signal between the local receive means and the output connector, the output means comprising means for receiving the coordination instruction and communicating the coordination instruction between the output connector and the local receive means;

whereby the separate host processor, when coupled to the output connector and in response to the coordination instruction, receives the remote video signal and cooperates with the software to present on the display a video image associated with the remote video signal.

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¹⁰ ~~9~~ ¹⁵ (twice amended) A system as claimed in Claim [14] ~~13~~, wherein:

the software cooperates with the separate host processor to produce a request coordination instruction; and
the local receive means comprises means for transmitting at least a portion of the remote video signal to the output connector in response to the request coordination instruction.

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¹¹ ~~9~~ ¹⁶ (twice amended) A system as claimed in Claim [14] ~~13~~, wherein the software cooperates with the separate host processor to transmit a data file over the communication channel.

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¹³ ~~9~~ ¹⁸ (once amended) A system as claimed in Claim [14] ~~13~~, wherein the local receive means comprises audio reproducing

means for broadcasting audio reproduced from the remote audio signal.

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19. (once amended) A system for communicating with a communication channel comprising:

a separate host processor being housed within a computer system housing and being coupled to a display;

a peripheral housing separate from the computer system housing; and

an audio/visual communication system integral to the peripheral housing, the audio/visual communication system comprising:

source receive means for receiving source audio and video signals;

local transmission means for transmitting [the] a coded source audio signal and [the] a coded source video signal over the communication channel;

local receive means for receiving a coded remote audio signal and a coded remote video signal transmitted over the communication channel and for determining the format of the coded remote audio and video signals; and

output means, comprising an output connector, for communicating the remote video signal between the local receive means and the output connector and for communicating a coordination instruction produced by the separate host processor between the output connector and the local receive means;

wherein the separate host processor, when coupled to the output connector, receives the remote video signal in

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response to the coordination instruction for displaying a corresponding video image on the display.

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37. (once amended) A system as claimed in Claim [36] 19, wherein the local transmission means comprises means for converting the source video signal in at least one of an NTSC format, a PAL format, and an S-video format to an associated coded local [compressed] video signal.

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40. (once amended) A system for communicating with a communication channel comprising:

a local host processor being housed within a separate local computer system housing and being coupled to a local display;

a local peripheral housing separate from the local computer system housing and comprising a local audio/visual communication system, the local audio/visual communication system comprising:

source receive means for receiving local audio and video signals acquired from a local conferencing site;

local transmission means for transmitting [the] coded local audio and video signals over the communication channel;

local receive means for receiving coded remote audio and video signals transmitted over the communication channel and for determining the format of the coded remote audio and video signals; and

local output means, comprising a local output connector, for communicating the remote video signal between the local receive means and the local output connector and for communicating a coordination instruction produced by the local host processor between the local host processor and the local audio/visual communication system;

a remote host processor being housed within a separate remote computer system housing and being coupled to a remote display;

a remote peripheral housing separate from the remote computer system housing and comprising a remote audio/visual communication system, the remote audio/visual communication system comprising:

source receive means for receiving remote audio and video signals acquired from a remote conferencing site;

remote transmission means for transmitting [the] coded remote audio and video signals over the communication channel;

remote receive means for receiving [the] coded local audio and video signals transmitted over the communication channel and for determining the format of the coded local audio and video signals; and

remote output means, comprising a remote output connector, for communicating the local video signal between the remote receive means and the remote output connector and for communicating a coordination instruction produced by the remote host processor between the remote host processor and the remote audio/visual communication system;

wherein the local host processor, when coupled to the local output connector, receives the remote video signal in response to the local coordination instruction for displaying a corresponding remote video image on the local display, and the remote host processor, when coupled to the remote output connector, receives the local video signal in response to the remote coordination instruction for displaying a corresponding local video image on the remote display.

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40 50. (once amended) A system as claimed in Claim [49] ~~40~~,
wherein:

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the local host processor comprises local user interface means for receiving the local coordination instruction from a local user of the audio/visual communication system; and

the remote host processing means comprises remote user interface means for receiving the remote coordination instruction from a remote user of the audio/visual communication system.

REMARKS

Claims 1-53 are pending in the application. Claims 2-5, 14, 21, 36, 38, 39, and 49 have been cancelled without prejudice. *Shibata*, which was asserted as a basis for rejecting the claims in the prior Office Action, is no longer being asserted by the Examiner. Claims 1-9 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over newly asserted references *Gattis et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,062,136) and *Steinka et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,134,611). Claims 11-18 were